Carpenter's - Singles Uncovered 1969 -1972 Vol 1 - Mike's Mix's

Hey kids,

Recently, Paul has posted a few different kinds of Carpenters albums curtesy of his musical friend, Fabio from Rio. Those inspired me (a very, very long time Carpenters fan) to put together my own spin on the their musical creations.

So far, we've posted here, a near acappella version, a semi acappella (piano only) version, and a total acappella version.

I came up with a version that gets rid of what I considered the unnecessary production touches, especially orchestral parts and extra voices. This is another way to enjoy more of a "pure" Carpenters sound that focuses more on Karen's voice and Richard's piano playing.

I started by making up a list of all of their singles from 1969 through 1981. (Some of the songs weren't released until after Karen's death in 1983, but I ordered them

by the years they were actually recorded.) It was about 65 songs. I went through that list and removed the lesser known cuts and their less popular songs (which almost entirely came from their later period, especially after 1981). Then I eliminated songs which I didn't like, and songs that had too many children's choirs creating all the background vocals. Finally, I removed all the strings and orchestras which really covered up a lot of Karen's gorgeous vocals. I loved the early days of just Karen and Richard singing their own harmonies. This was the feeling I was trying capture, but from throughout their entire career. This left me with about 50 songs.

From these songs, I made new mixes for all of them, not with my usual intent to UNCOVER hidden things, but with the intent to back off the heavy production used on a large portion of their songs, and just focus on Karen and her singing backed by usually just piano, bass, acoustic guitar, and drums. I removed 95% of all the strings, and backing vocals not done by Karen and Richard, as well as a chunk of other instruments that drew you attention away from Karen and her stunning voice.

At times I was forced to leave some of that background stuff in because it was the only thing happening at times during the song... but I did cut out as much of the extraneous added production as I could. I also left an occasional trumpet, oboe, sax or electric guitar in there because the solo would be just plain gone without them there.

I really like the way these three volumes turned out. It about three hours worth of pure Carpenters magic divided into roughly one hour volumes.

This was a blast to put together and I hope you enjoy listening to them in this (less schmaltzy) form, as much as I do. These songs really do take me back!

Michael

P.S.: If you love Karen's singing and miss her as much as I do, I would highly suggest you check out two other artists:

Harriet (OMG)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11HmqHBIloc (Afterglow)

https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Gc5zFcfUD (masquerade)

And her YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzyRgi4QVN5tPAzcSTP3ytA

And to a lesser extent

Rumer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXlC4RxOG-0

ENJOY!!!!

Track lists:

Volume 1:

01 Ticket to Ride (Carpenters)
02 Your Wonderful Parade (Carpenters)
03 Don't Be Afraid (Carpenters)
04 All of My Life (Carpenters)
05 [They Long to Be] Close to You (Carpenters)
06 I Kept on Loving You (Carpenters)
07 We've Only Just Begun (Carpenters)
08 Mr. Guder (Carpenters)
09 Maybe It's You [Piano Version] (Carpenters)
10 Merry Christmas Darling (Carpenters)
11 For All We Know (Carpenters)
12 Rainy Days and Mondays (Carpenters)
13 Saturday (Carpenters)
14 Superstar [Groupie] (Carpenters)
15 Let Me Be the One (Carpenters)
16 Drucilla Penny (Carpenters)
17 One Love (Carpenters)
18 Bless the Beasts and the Children (Carpenters)
19 Hurting Each Other (Carpenters)
Maybe It's You [Orchestra Version] (Carpenters)

A&M